

## **The Power of One – Statewide Initiative**

Child abuse prevention is an acknowledged community responsibility—this month and each thereafter the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) shall commit to *The Power of One*. This statewide initiative asserts that the power of one person, one community, one dollar, one action, etc. during April, will help to protect children from abuse and neglect throughout Michigan. The initiative encourages every citizen to take responsibility for providing the support and assistance that all parents need. It is a compelling strategy for the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The goal of primary prevention is to stop child abuse and neglect before it occurs. Primary prevention strategies create supportive environments that empower parents and help them access the tools they need to raise their children in safe, loving, and nurturing homes. Primary prevention efforts are found in places where families gather: neighborhoods, workplaces, shopping centers, libraries, religious settings, schools, and clubs. *The Power of One* initiative accomplishes primary prevention by raising awareness of the solutions to the problem of child abuse and by mobilizing citizens to engage in those solutions.

There are countless options to strengthening the mission of making child abuse prevention a reality. Child Abuse Prevention Month is an opportunity for you to be a positive force on behalf of the children and families in your community. No one person can do everything, but everyone can do something. And together, we can do anything!

Here are some things you CAN do this Child Abuse Prevention Month:

**Reach out.** Anything you do to support parents and children can reduce the stress that often leads to child abuse and neglect.

- Be a friend to a parent you know. Ask how their children are doing. If a parent seems to be struggling, offer to baby-sit, run errands, or lend a friendly ear.
- Talk to your neighbors about looking out for one another's children. Encourage a supportive spirit among parents in your community. Join a local Circle of Parents (<http://www.circleofparents.org/>) support group or Great Start Parent Coalition. (<http://greatstartforkids.org/content/great-start-parent-coalition-overview>)
- Donate your used clothing, furniture, and toys for use by another family. This can relieve the stress of financial burdens that parents may take out on their children.
- If you or someone you know feels overwhelmed by the demands of parenting, call Parent Awareness Michigan (PAM) at 1-800-968-4968 for information about family support resources in your community or visit [www.preventionnetwork.org](http://www.preventionnetwork.org) to find parenting resources managed by PAM.
- Become a volunteer and/or member of a child abuse prevention and/or advocacy group or organization in your community.
- Make a financial charitable contribution to a cause which will support families and children. (Each \$1 donation can make a difference.)



**Raise the issue.** By educating yourself—and others—you can help your community prevent child abuse from happening in the first place.

- Explore the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Website at [www.michigan.gov/ctf](http://www.michigan.gov/ctf) to access information you can download, print, photocopy and post in your workplace and in your community.
- Explore CTF local council websites by clicking the applicable county at the following link, [http://www.michigan.gov/ctf/0,1607,7-196-40188\\_42150---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ctf/0,1607,7-196-40188_42150---,00.html).
- Contact your county's CTF local council to inquire about prevention programs and educational opportunities available for the community.
- Wear a blue pinwheel and tell people it stands for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in your local community, e.g., Planting a Pinwheel Garden, Faith-based Campaign/Blue Sabbath, Fund Raisers, etc.
- Attend the April 16, 2013 Prevention Awareness Day (PrAD) rally in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month at the Capitol steps at 11 AM in Downtown Lansing to show support and to celebrate our state's children and families.
- Contact your elected officials and educate them regarding the child abuse and neglect prevention need in your local community, and ask them to support funding and legislative initiatives for parent support and child abuse prevention programs.
- Participate in the Legislative Education Day (LED) component of the Prevention Awareness Day event. For more information about LED call CTF at 517-373-4320.

*The Power of One **CAN** Make a Difference!*